

Bowman's Castle (Nemacolin Castle)
Corner of Front and Second Streets
Brownsville Borough
Fayette County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-429

HABS

PA

26-BROVI,

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Addendum to
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Pennsylvania		COUNTY Fayette	TOWN OR VICINITY Brownsville Borough
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Bowman's Castle			HABS NO. PA-429
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Nemacolin Castle			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Front and Second Streets			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1789-1900: constructed in stages, with original log section dating from 1789		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Original owner/builder was Jacob Bowman	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Originally constructed by Jacob Bowman as a trading post & home, Bowman's Castle was both an important commercial enterprise on Pennsylvania's frontier and home to one of the area's most prominent citizens. Architecturally, the house is a good example of evolutionary change over time.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Eclectic, with stylistic motifs added and altered over a 100-year period			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick, random ashlar on part of first story, coursed ashlar basement			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Irregular plan with projecting bays and octagonal tower, approx. 102'-5" x 59'-9"; 2-1/2 stories with 3-story tower; gabled roofs			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Bay windows; balconies; battlements on tower and part of main building; bracketed cornices; glass enclosed conservatory with arcaded balcony above on west facade; lattice-work porch on east facade			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Fine interior woodwork and plaster ornament.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Portions of original log house still intact in center of building; added to the log house were the east wing and octagonal tower, ca. 1835-1840. During the late 19th century, numerous modifications were made including addition of brackets, balconies & conservatory.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Restored after 1963 by the Brownsville Historical Society.			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Listed on National Register of Historic Places.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS			DATE 7/12/84